



ANNUAL REVIEW AND ACCOUNTS 2004

Supporting Churches in Essex & East London

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is my first report as Chairman and I must begin by saying I have succeeded an unusual and very able lady, Anthea Speakman. She has passed on an organisation in wonderful heart and a sound financial position. We are all most grateful to her for all her work on our behalf and for her unfailing courtesy and good humour.

The Friends have had another record breaking year, with the largest amount ever being distributed in grants, and we are budgeting for more in 2005. This success is possible only because of the efforts of so many people. The Events Committee, led by Clare Cottrell, work extremely hard and very successfully. But they are always looking out for even more support from members and their friends. Events are held throughout the year, are always good fun and a very pleasant way of raising funds for Friends.

The Cycle Ride continues to be an important part of our fund-raising activities. It is interesting to note that in 1989 the Ride produced the sum of over £60,000 for the first time. For the last two years double that amount has been raised. We are extremely grateful to Julia Abel Smith and her team for the huge amount of work they put in to make this event such a success.

I am proud of the fact that almost all the money raised by the Friends goes to help maintain our Churches. Our administration costs are less than £4,000 per year. They were £3,000 fifteen years ago when the grants we gave were under half what they are now. Everyone is very cost conscious, but I would particularly like to mention Mary Blaxall, our Hon. Secretary, Ian Dudley our Hon. Treasurer and John Bloomfield Hon. Secretary of the Grants Committee, who are in control of what could be substantial cost centres but which, through their efforts, are not!

The Study Days have attracted even larger numbers, who appreciate how very good and informative the visits are. Our thanks go to James Bettley and Marion Scantlebury who make them such an enjoyable day out. I think the spirit of the Friends shone out when I stood before the assembled company at the October Study Day to announce a quite substantial price increase and was applauded for doing so. It shows our members' love for our cause.

My thanks go to everyone who has helped throughout the year.

Finally, I must tell you of three people in particular: Tom Gepp, one of our vice-Presidents, has decided to stand down. Tom has been associated with the Friends since 1982 and was Chairman from 1988 to 1995. The Committee will miss him and his wisdom.

Sir Alastair Steward has been Hon. Membership Secretary since 1991 until last summer when he retired from that post. Alastair worked tirelessly during his period of office, and under his management membership and donations increased. He will remain on the Committee. We are fortunate to have found an able successor in Keith Gardner.

Margaret Jackson has decided not to seek re-appointment as non-executive member of the Committee. She has been a great help on the Committee and as a church visitor. We are most grateful for the huge contribution all three have made over the years and I think they can be proud of their achievements.

Our ongoing task is to help to maintain Christian Churches and Chapels throughout Essex and East London. I pray we shall be able to continue with this work.

Lance Lepper

SOUTHEND BRANCH

The Branch continues to be well supported and membership remains constant, very much due to the efforts made to encourage friends, families and church connections to join. Our special thanks go to all concerned.

In 2004 there were four outings with near fully booked coaches, resulting in record donations being made to central funds. As always, we have met delightful people at the church venues, and we express our sincere appreciation for the warm welcome received in every case.

Of course, a nice tea follows each visit, often provided by the local W.I., and here we must comment on the splendid fare always placed before our party, and the friendliness of the lady helpers.

We look forward to outings in 2005 and extend a welcome to prospective members. Please telephone Mrs. Betty Garrod, 01702-557466 for more information.

Don Woracker

THANK YOU

THANK YOU EVERYONE. Thank you members, congregations and other donors for your continued support of The Friends throughout 2004.

The magnificent sum of over £51,000 was received from these three sources put together. Individually these totals come to:

Members	£ 22,466
Congregations	£ 12,454
Other Donors	£ 8,832
Gift Aid	£ 7,544

Overall our income under these heads shows no significant change from the previous year but the individual figures above are not directly comparable with those for 2003. For one reason, contributions continue to be received from congregations for 2004. These will be included in the figures for 2005.

Our support comes from across 'Essex' and indeed from beyond its bounds. This focuses my mind on the words appearing on all our documents, namely: 'Supporting Churches in Essex & East London'. The County most of us identified with in our youth is no more. The edges have been eaten away by our rulers. The Boroughs of Barking, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest went a while ago to Greater London. Southend, once a county borough and then back in the fold became, with Thurrock, more recently a unitary authority. 'Out-county' maybe, but they still support us.

Fascinating is the position of Great & Little Chishill in the far north west. They are not even in Essex nor, so far as I know, have they ever been. Despite being in Cambridgeshire, they are in the Diocese of Chelmsford and donations come from that quarter too.

The Post Office does not help. Its 'post towns' take Hatfield Heath, for example, into Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire. Its 'post codes' likewise, take Saffron Walden into CB (Cambridge).

With all this change, the familiar term 'Essex' means different things in different contexts.

Taking a lead from 'c2c' (once upon a time London, Tilbury & Southend), I think of our ambit as 'Lea to Sea' one way and 'Thames to Stour' the other. From Waltham Abbey in the west to Tillingham in the east. From Grays in the south to Belchamp Otten in the north. Through 45 degrees from Stratford in the south-west to Bradfield in the north-east and from Westcliff in the south-east to Chrishall in the far north-west.

Although not quite from 'A' to 'Z' - because there are no 'X', 'Ys' or 'Zs' - we go all the way from 'A' for Abbey Lane United Reformed to 'W' for Writtle All Saints.

So we are please to say we 'support and are supported by churches throughout 'all Essex and East London'.

Keith Gardner

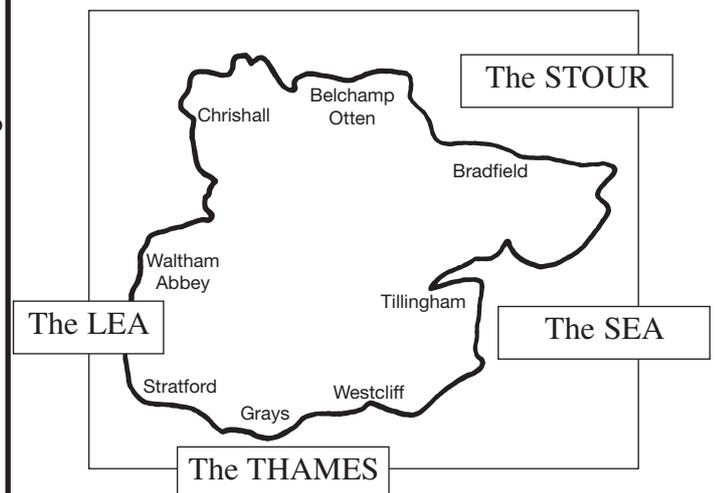
WASTE RECYCLING ENVIRONMENTAL

It was in 2001 that we discovered a Fairy Godmother in the unlikely form of W.R.E.N. when we received the sum of £100,000 from them. Over the past four years we have received over £320,000 from that source.

Needless to say, although we are limited in the geographical areas to which this money can be given in grants, it has not been difficult to disperse this money to Churches in great need of funds to repair their buildings.

Although we have heard dire warnings in the form of "the end is nigh", we are pleased to say funding has not yet dried up and we shall receive £52,000 this year. We realise W.R.E.N. has other calls on its funds and we are extremely grateful for the magnificent way it has supported us and continues to do so.

We are also grateful to London over the Border Council who have helped by providing the 11% grant that must be made by W.R.E.N. to ENtrust.



FEC GRANTS 2004

Alphamstone St. Barnabas	Roof repairs	£ 7000
Ashdon All Saints	Stonework	5000
Aveley St. Michael	Roof repairs	5000
Basildon St. Martin of Tours	Electrical	5000
Broomfield St. Mary	Lead roof repairs	2000
Colchester St. James	Masonry repairs	15000
Colchester Wimpole Methodist	General repairs	2000
Elmdon St. Nicholas	Roof repairs	2000
Farnham St. Mary the Virgin	Roof repairs	10000
Fryerning St. Mary the Virgin	Electrical	5000
Great Bentley St. Mary the Virgin	General repairs	7000
Harlow St. Paul	Roof repairs	10,000
Hawkwell St. Mary	Drainage	1500
Heydon Holy Trinity	Porch repairs	4000
Lower Breton St. Mary the Virgin	Tower repairs	500
Leytonstone St. John the Baptist	Stone replacement	15000
Leigh on Sea St. James the Great	General repairs	4000
Liston	Tower repairs	2000
Little Braxted St. Nicholas	Roof repairs	5000
Little Dunmow St. Mary the Virgin	Floor repairs	3000
Noak Hill St. Thomas	Spire and Stonework	5000
Newport St. Mary the Virgin	Stonework	6000
Peldon St. Mary the Virgin	Flooring	2000
Rivenhall St. Mary & All Saints	Exterior plaster repair	7000
Rochford St. Andrew	Roof repairs	5000
St. Osyth SS. Peter and Paul	Tower repairs	2000
Stambridge St. Mary and All Saints	Flooring	3000
Thaxted St. John the Baptist	Roofing and clerestory	15000
Tillingham St. Nicholas	Roof repairs	1000
Wethersfield St. Mary Magdalene	Tower repairs	7000
		<u>£163000</u>

W.R.E.N. 2004

Aveley St. Michael	Roof repairs	10000
Fobbing St. Michael	Plaster work	8000
Great Warley St. Mary the Virgin	Rainwater goods repairs	500
Hutton All Saints	Roof repairs	2500
Ilford The Chapel of St. Mary	General repairs	10000
Noak Hill St. Thomas	Spire and stonework	10000
Stapleford Tawney St. Mary the Virgin	Damp and gutter repairs	1500
Upminster Methodist	Parapet repairs	500
Romford St. Andrew	Community project	10000
(special Gift Aid Allocation restricted to community project		<u>£53000</u>



Newport, St. Mary the Virgin



Wethersfield, St. Mary Magdalene



St. Osyth, Sts Peter & Paul



RESULTS OF 2004 SPONSORED BIKE RIDE & WALK

£118,500

The Revd. Canon Chris Bard and Ian Wyatt of BBC Radio Essex helped us to launch the Bicycle Ride & Walk at Ardleigh, St. Mary. We were delighted to be at St. Mary's, which is a beautiful church shared by the Anglican and Roman Catholic communities. Lord Petre, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex and one of our Patrons, presented the trophy to members of Brentwood, St. Thomas for raising the most money in the 2003 Ride: £2,947. The Song Cycle, the all-singing, all-cycling male voice quartet, which many of us enjoy hearing on Bike Ride Day, are members of St. Thomas, and they entertained us over coffee. It was a really happy occasion held on 1st September, a bright sunny morning. In 2004, St. Thomas's surpassed themselves and raised £3,014 but they were just beaten by their neighbours at St Thomas, Navestock, who brought in the staggering £3,267. I would like to single out David Hoppit and his team of Navestock Flyers: David visited no fewer than 96 churches, easily the record, and I want to thank him most sincerely for his efforts on behalf of his church and the FEC. This year we are holding the Launch at

Navestock on Monday, 22nd August. Although slightly down on 2003, I am very pleased with last year's result. In 2003 only five counties, of which Essex was one, raised their total from the year before. It is very gratifying to see churches from all Areas taking part and a few more in East London each year. I am grateful to the local representatives, for cajoling, persuading and arm-twisting riders, walkers and stewards to take part on the day. Where churches do not have active local reps. they lose the opportunity to make money, as we do at the FEC. Sincere thanks are due to Ivy Day of Margaretting who is retiring as local representative after ten years, having raised nearly £19,000.

Anthony Bartleet, the Lay Chair of the Anglican Dedham & Tey Deanery, visited most of the places of worship in his patch and a few more besides, with the express intention of raising money for each one. Having raised £2,300 he asked us to send £50 to each church including the four non-conformist ones and St Mary Old Church in West Bergholt, now looked after by The Churches

Conservation Trust. His great generosity was a most welcome surprise to all the recipients. The FEC Treasurer, Ian Dudley, visited churches in the Harwich Area on Bike Ride Day and reported "What a wonderfully rewarding day. We have enjoyed ourselves enormously having received warm welcomes from each and every church we visited. People are so proud of their churches and delighted when you show an interest ... it is also very rewarding to be able to experience at first hand our work in preserving our local heritage." Mary Blaxall, the Hon. Secretary, kindly went round the Colchester area and wrote, "We thoroughly enjoyed our tour round a part of Essex we really do not know very well - it is a very attractive county, despite all the rude remarks made about it!" Thank you to them both and other members of the FEC committee who were out on the road that day. I am always grateful to Ray and Beryl Clements, our indefatigable Bike Ride Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary, for their hard work and good humour, and to Marisa Petre, who is in charge of publicity.

Julia Abel Smith
County Organiser

DATE OF THIS YEAR'S BIKE RIDE & WALK

SATURDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER, 2005



The Song Cycle outside Braintree Baptist Church

THE RESTORATION OF ST. JOHN'S, LEYTONSTONE

Many of the Friends of Essex Churches will know of St. John's church Leytonstone. Before the A12 link road was built, those who drove out of London on the A11 through Leytonstone could see the tower of St. John's on their journey.

It is a large and beautiful house of prayer designed by Edward Blore and built in 1833. It was extended in 1910.

The scale of restoration needed was daunting. After advice from a day conference organised by the Diocese of Chelmsford, the Parochial Church Council set up a Fabric Appeals Group in 2001. In the last four years it is this group which has helped the P.C.C. to launch an ambitious ten year restoration programme.

First we agreed our aims. We believe a restored church building will help us to play our part in building an inclusive multi-faith community in this part of East London. We aim to create an accessible and welcoming house of prayer, a peaceful oasis at the centre of a busy community, a resource for local schools, nurseries and playgroups, a focus for community events and a centre for the arts.

Our first major project, the building of a new church ramp with car parking, and a new pedestrian gate, were completed in 2003. Our second project, the restoration of our South Vestry area was completed in February 2005. It was for this aspect of the work that we received a generous grant from Friends of Essex Churches.

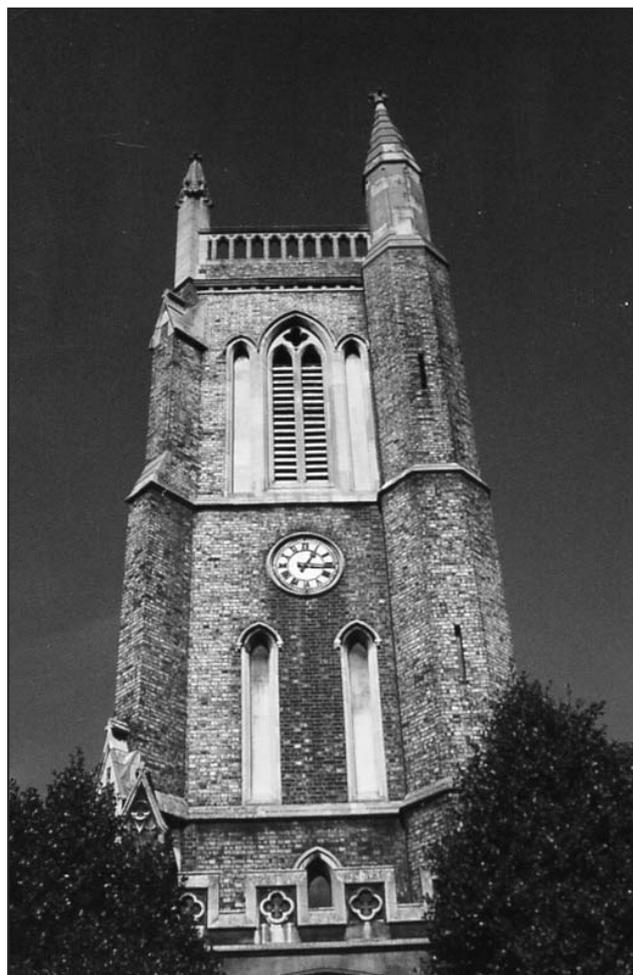
We now have a restored meeting room, a new kitchen, a toilet in church and a small ramp giving access to the Lady Chapel and the South Vestry. We are now planning for the repairs to plasterwork, the restoration of the porches and the re-decoration of the church.

The Fabric Appeals Group has been responsible for making links with grant making bodies, and in addition to the grant from F.E.C. for the repair work, we are grateful for grants made by London over the Border, by London Borough of Waltham Forest, by Ecclesiastical Insurance Group and by a number of small charities. The Fabric Appeals Group also produced an appeal leaflet, printed professionally, which was distributed to every house and business in the Parish.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of older people who have run a Coffee Morning every Friday. We have also organised a series of concerts and made links with old members of St. John's who have moved to other communities.

On Advent Sunday 2002, we began a Talent Challenge offering members of St. John's £10 each, to use to raise funds. Ten individuals or groups have taken this challenge each year, and each year £100 came back as £2,000. This was achieved by a variety of activities from a sponsored aerobics event, making and selling woollen items, making mince pies and rich fruit cakes, doing gardening and one man also backed a winning horse at 66 to 1! Other activities, too many to list, also took place. All these efforts were, of course, supported by a larger group in the church and the community.

We knew there was no point in restoring the building if we did not at the same time strengthen our links with the local community. The most dramatic link we made was with the Police and the Borough Council. With their help we have reduced the intimidation caused by alcohol and drug abuse. They have given us back the security we need to strengthen community life. We established an Arts Ministry Group to help us develop as a centre for the Arts, and we now have a major role in the annual Arts Festival, holding our first Art Exhibition in 2004. We have also strengthened our links with local schools, and last Christmas one school held its first Carol Service in church for many years. We have helped to launch a multi-faith Parent and Toddler Group, a Business Forum and a Local History Society for Leyton and Leytonstone, and developed a very successful "Outings Club" for older people. This all means that many local people can see what the restoration programme is for.



The Tower of St. John the Baptist, Leytonstone

Raymond Draper
Vicar, St. John the Baptist, Leytonstone



PATRONS

The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, The Lord Petre
The Bishop of Chelmsford, The Right Revd. John Gladwin
The Bishop of Brentwood, The Right Revd. T.M. McMahon

PRESIDENT: G. Courtauld
Vice-Presidents: Col Sir John Ruggles-Brise
T.C. Gepp, Col. H.E. Hunter Jones

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & TRUSTEES

Chairman: Lance Lepper
Vice-Chairman: Julia Abel Smith
Hon. Treasurer: Ian Dudley
Hon. Secretary: Mary Blaxall

James Bettley, John Bloomfield, Ray Clements,
Clare Cottrell, Keith Gardner, Ann Hilder,
Revd. John Morley, Simon Mynott, Marisa Petre,
Marion Scantlebury, Sir Alastair Stewart

CONTACTS:

Hon. Secretary (General enquiries)
Mrs. Mary Blaxall
5 Brookhurst Close
Chelmsford CM2 6DX
Tel: 01245-354745

Hon. Membership Secretary: (Subscriptions,
donations, gift aid)

Keith Gardner
Pink Cottage
Curtis Mill Green, Stapleford Tawney, RM4 1RT
Tel: 01708-688576
Email: keith.gardner@care4free.net

Hon. Secretary Grants Committee:
John Bloomfield
39 Lake Rise
Romford, RM1 4DZ
Tel: 01708-745273

Study Days:
Mrs. Marion Scantlebury
Parvilles
Hatfield Heath
Bishop's Stortford, CM22 7AT
Tel: 01279-731228

Sponsored Cycle Ride:
Mrs. Julia Abel Smith
Tel: 01245-361525
Email: jasleighs@aol.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 15th April A talk by Dennis Hance on "The County House" to be held at Hatfield Place. 6.30 for 7.00pm followed by wine and light refreshments
Wednesday 4th May Study Day
Tuesday 17th May Annual General Meeting at Great Bromley, 3.00pm

26th June there will be a Luncheon at Stapleford Tawney - further details will be sent to members in due course.

Saturday 1st October Study Day
Wednesday 12th October Autumn Fair at Reid Rooms, Margaret Roding - with usual variety of stalls

For further information contact:

Chairman Events Committee:
Sarah White Tel: 01245-233363

If you have any news worthy stories arising from repair work at your church, where an F.E.C. grant is involved, perhaps to do with other forms of fund raising, or discoveries made during the course of the work, or any other reason, our Publicity Officer, Marisa Petre, would be delighted to hear from you. She will then ensure the local newspapers, and in some cases, local radio, are notified.

You can contact her on: 01277-353157

or write to: The Hon. Mrs. D. Petre,
Ingatestone Hall, Hall Lane,
Ingatestone CM4 9NR

Are you looking for a speaker for one of your functions? If so Sir Alastair Stewart would be pleased to come along and give a talk about the work of the Friends of Essex Churches.

He can be contacted on: 01245-222445

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Treasurers Report

During the year we received payments of £38,934 from Waste Recycling Environmental for which we are extremely grateful. Unrestricted income from Members Subscriptions and Donations, together with the fundraising activities of our Events Committee and the Sponsored Bicycle Ride continue to produce £120,000 per annum and with interest and dividends total unrestricted income amounted to £137,382. We are most grateful for the legacy from the estate of W.G. Heard. Expenses remain very modest at only 3% of total income.

The Grants Committee allocated £53,000 from the WREN restricted fund and £163,000 from unrestricted funds. However a number of grants (allocated in previous years) have lapsed and this reduced our annual grants payable liability to £135,500.

Investments rose in value by £10,157.

For 2005 the Trustees have decided to increase our grant allocation to £200,000. There is also £21,863 available in grants for churches within the WREN restricted area. In summary, we can be confident that our net unrestricted income can be maintained at around £125/130k. We will continue to budget for this level adding a proportion of our legacy income to the grant allocation. By adopting this policy we aim to reduce gradually our unrestricted funds bringing them closer to our reserve level of £200,000.

Ian Dudley, 21st Feb, 2005

Auditors Statement to the Members of The Friends of Essex Churches

We have examined the above summarised financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised statements consistency with the full set of financial statements, on which we reported to you on 28th February 2005.

Basis of Opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2004.

Edmund Carr

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW.

28th February, 2005

Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 December 2004

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2004

Total 2003 £'000		2004 Restricted Fund £'000	2004 Un-restricted Fund £'000	2004 Total £'000
70.0	Landfill tax credits	38.9	0.0	38.9
20.9	Subscriptions	0.0	22.4	22.4
29.9	Donations	0.0	28.9	28.9
0.0	Legacies	0.0	0.2	0.2
60.2	Fund Raising - Bike Ride	0.0	61.8	61.8
8.4	Fund Raising - Other events	0.0	7.0	7.0
13.9	Interest and dividends	1.2	16.7	17.9
0.4	Gazetteers sold	0.0	0.4	0.4
203.7	Total income	40.1	137.4	177.5
(3.4)	Administration costs	0.0	(3.3)	(3.3)
(1.0)	Fund raising/publicity costs	0.0	(2.0)	(2.0)
(1.0)	Gazetteer Expenses	0.0	0.0	0.0
(119.5)	Grants payable	(53.0)	(135.5)	(188.5)
(124.9)	Total Expenditure	(53.0)	(140.8)	(193.8)
78.8	Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(12.9)	(3.4)	(16.3)
14.8	Gains/(losses) on investments	0.0	10.2	10.2
93.6	Net movement in Funds	(12.9)	6.8	(6.1)

Summary balance sheet as at 31 December 2004

2003 £'000		2004 £'000
150.1	Investments - market value	160.3
427.3	Cash and deposits	423.6
3.2	Sundry debtors	4.8
580.6	Total assets	588.7
(152.0)	Undrawn grants	(166.0)
(1.2)	Creditors	(1.4)
427.4	Net assets	421.3
	Represented by:	
392.3	General fund (unrestricted)	398.6
0.4	Gazetteer fund (unrestricted)	0.8
34.7	Landfill tax credits (restricted)	21.9
427.4		421.3

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

WHEN?

Often I am asked, "When are my subs. due?"
 The best answer I can give is, "Now".
 There is no set date. Most people send in their subs. on the anniversary of joining. We do not send automatic reminders. Our supporters are generally so good that reminders are not necessary. They are also costly.
 So, if you have not sent your subs. to renew your membership for 2005, please do so now while it is in your mind. There is a payment slip below for your convenience.
 If you are in a position to GIFT AID your subs., their value to The Friends will increase by nearly 30% at no cost to yourself. The payment slip has a section for you to do this. If you are in any doubt as to whether or not you have already made the declaration, do not hesitate to do so now - we do not claim twice!
 The slip also contains a pro forma BANKERS ORDER for you to make your commitment in this way if you wish. No action is necessary if you have already completed a Bankers Order.

HOW MUCH?

The recommended minimum subscription is £15.00 or, for a family, £25.00. If you are able to give more, no-one will object.

*Please send your subscription or completed Bankers Order to:
 The Hon. Membership Secretary
 Friends of Essex Churches, Pink Cottage
 Curtis Mill Green, Stapleford Tawney
 Essex RM4 1RT*

A FRIEND OF A FRIEND

If you know of someone who might also like to support The Friends by becoming a member, please sow the seed in their mind.
 An application form may be obtained from me at the above address ('phone 01708 688576) Or you could photocopy the payment slip below.
 Thank you,

Keith Gardner

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION To: The Hon. Membership Secretary, Keith Gardner Esq., Pink Cottage
 Curtis Mill Green, Stapleford Tawney, Essex, RM4 1RT
 Tel: 01708 688576 Email: keith.gardner@care4free.net

- I would like to become a member / renew my membership of The Friends of Essex Churches
- EITHER I enclose a donation of £(suggested minimum £15 p.a., family £25 p.a.)
 Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Essex Churches
- OR I have completed the Bankers Order and enclose it with this application
- I have completed the Gift Aid Declaration (to allow The Friends to reclaim tax against my donation)

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Surname and InitialsTitle
 Address
PostCode
 Telephone.....Signature

<p>GIFT AID DECLARATION</p> <p>I</p> <p>Of <small>(Town/Village)</small></p> <p>Post Code.....</p> <p>would like all gifts to The Friends of Essex Churches paid on or after the date of this declaration to be gift aid donations. I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer (income or capital gains tax), resident in the UK for tax purposes and I will advise the Friends of Essex Churches if my situation changes.</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>Date</p>

<p>BANKERS ORDER</p> <p>To (Name of donor's bank).....</p> <p>Address</p> <p>Pleas pay to Barclays Bank plc, 2 High Street, Chelmsford, Sort Code: 20-19-95 Account No: 70427845 Account Name: The Friends of Essex Churches</p> <p>£annually on the first day of(month)(year) and of each succeeding year until further notice</p> <p>This cancels any previous standing order payable from my account for the credit of The Friends of Essex Churches</p> <p>SignatureDate.....</p> <p>BankSort Code</p> <p>Name</p> <p>Address</p>
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